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400-plus jobs relocating to Fairfield

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Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — Fairfield has landed not only a company that would be the city’s ninth-largest employer when it moves 400-plus jobs into the Gilmore Pointe Office Park, but a company projected to make the Fortune 500 list later this year.

Veritiv Corporation, which has its executive headquarters in Atlanta, will move its main Ohio offices later this fall, if not sooner, from Miami Twp. in Clermont County to the corner of South Gilmore and Mack roads, according to an incentive agreement between the company and city of Fairfield.

Company officials said they were looking at areas around the Greater Cincinnati region to relocate the information technology, customer service, credit and finance jobs. To lure the company to Fairfield, the city offered the company a 10-year, \$2 million property reinvestment reimbursement package.

“I think this project makes good financial sense for both the city and the company, both in the short term and long term,” said Greg Kathman, Fairfield’s economic development manager.

Veritiv will invest in upgrades and improvements to its space at Gilmore Pointe — which is owned by Cincinnati Financial — and the city will reimburse the company up to a maximum of \$2 million provided the company meets certain thresholds, including completion of the remodeling, relocating of the 400-plus jobs to the city and meeting certain payroll thresholds.

Reimbursements could be made as early as 2018.

“There’s a lot of security built in from the city’s perspective, to make sure the compliance happens as we all expect it to,” Kathman said.

Veritiv Corporation was founded in July 2014 following the merger of International Paper’s xpedx division, which was headquartered in Clermont County, and Unisource Worldwide, which was headquartered in Atlanta. Veritiv had more than \$9.3 billion net sales in 2014, Patterson said.

The Greater Cincinnati area is “a place to find good talent” for the jobs that support Veritiv’s support North American operations, said Veritiv spokesman Ed Patterson.

“The office will offer us what we believe is a sleek updated working environment,” he said. “What we wanted to do and the offices and the space we needed, for growth, it wasn’t the right fit. And this facility in Fairfield was the right fit for us.”

The company’s lease for its Clermont County offices ends this July.

Veritiv is a full-service strategic distribution company that offers business-to-business solutions including packaging, print and paper, publishing, logistics and facility solutions, such as cleaning supplies. The company has distribution centers around North America, including in Canada and Mexico.

Many of the customers for Veritiv are on the Fortune 500 list, including the company’s new landlord, Cincinnati Financial.

The site was attractive not only because of the location, but because it will allow the city to grow, said Patterson. While Veritiv will bring just more than 400 jobs to Fairfield, the 72,000-square-foot space will allow dozens of more jobs to be added, he said. When those jobs could be added, Patterson said, is not a decision that’s been made.

“As we look at these similar operational support functions, if an when the time comes we wanted to make sure we were in a location here that allowed for that particular growth,” said Patterson, adding that the projected move-in date by the end of September. The move will be done in waves, Patterson said.

Patterson said the company wanted to look at all the options in Greater Cincinnati, and worked with REDI Cincinnati to find an ideal location, which was the Fairfield site near Interstate 275.

“Our role is to keep these great companies in the region,” said Erin Rolfes, a spokeswoman for REDI Cincinnati. “We do three things: we attract companies to the region, and once they’re here we try to help them stay and try to keep them here.”

TOP EMPLOYERS

Below are Fairfield’s top 10 employers. When Veritiv officially relocates to its new Ohio corporate offices later this year, the business will be ninth on this list.

- 1. Cincinnati Financial Corp., est. employees: 2,900
- 2. Mercy Hospital Fairfield, est. employees: 1,200
- 3. Fairfield City School District, est. employees: 1,100
- 4. Ohio Casualty Group, est. employees: 975
- 5. Medco Health Solutions, est. employees: 800
- 6. Koch Foods, est. employees: 600
- 7. Tri-County Extended Care, est. employees: 500
- 8. Pacific Industries, est. employees: 450
- 9. M Bohlke Veneer Co., est. employees: 400
- 10. city of Fairfield, est. employees: 375

Source: city of Fairfield

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